

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A urological resectoscope including:  
~~a tubular shaft (1), through which an optical system (2) and a longitudinally moveable instrument carrier (5) pass,~~  
~~a support device, spaced from the proximal end of the tubular shaft, and supporting the optical system (2) being supported with respect to the tubular shaft,~~  
~~(1) at a spacing from the proximal end of the tubular shaft (1) with a support device (9, 12) and~~  
~~the carrier (5) being positioned with a radial positioning device (10, 15) and a circumferential angular positioning device (11, 12), positioning the instrument carrier,~~  
wherein the support device (12, 18, 18') is so arranged adjacent to the optical system (2)-in the region in which the carrier (5)-extends, that it supports the optical system (2)-with respect to the tubular shaft (1)-with a two point support system and imparts lateral guidance to the carrier (5)-in the circumferential angular direction.
  
2. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim (1) 1, wherein the support device (12, 18, 18') is so constructed that it brings the optical system (2) into engagement with the side of the tubular shaft (1)-situated opposite to the support

device (12, 18, 19') in a three point support system.

3. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the support device has two circumferentially spaced, fixed webs (12), which are each arranged in contact with the optical system (2) and the tubular shaft (1) on both sides of the carrier (5) and in sliding contact with it.
4. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the webs (12) are connected to the tubular shaft (1).
5. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, including an optical guide tube (4) accommodating the optical system (2), at least in the proximal region of the tubular shaft (1), wherein the webs (12) are connected to the optical guide tube (4).
6. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the webs (12) have guide profiles (15) extending parallel to the tubular shaft (1) for longitudinally moveably guiding the carrier (5) in a radially fixed position.
7. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carrier (5) has strips (13) contacting the webs (12) in its longitudinal region, with which it is longitudinally moveable on the webs (12).
8. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the

support device (18, 18') is connected to the carrier (5) and is constructed to slide on the optical system (2) and on the tubular shaft (1, 1').

9. (Currently Amended) The resectoscope as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the tubular shaft (1') has a non-circular cross section matching the circumferential profile of the support device (18').

10. (Previously Presented) A urological resectoscope including a tubular shaft (1), through which an optical system (2) and a longitudinally moveable instrument carrier (5) pass, the optical system (2) being supported with respect to the tubular shaft (1) at a spacing from the proximal end of the tubular shaft (1) with a support device (12) and the carrier (5) being positioned with a radial positioning device (10), wherein the support device (12) is so arranged adjacent to the optical system (2) in the region in which the carrier (5) extends, that it supports the optical system (2) with respect to the tubular shaft (1) with a two point support system wherein the support device (12) is so constructed that it brings the optical system (2) into engagement with the side of the tubular shaft (1) situated opposite to the support device (12) in a three point support system.